Chapter 3: Introduction to SQL

Database System Concepts, 7th Ed.

Outline

- Overview of The SQL Query Language
- SQL Data Definition
- Basic Query Structure of SQL Queries
- Additional Basic Operations
- Set Operations
- Null Values
- Aggregate Functions
- Nested Subqueries
- Modification of the Database

History

- IBM Sequel language developed as part of System R project at the IBM San Jose Research Laboratory
- Renamed Structured Query Language (SQL)
- ANSI and ISO standard SQL:
  - SQL-86
  - SQL-89
  - SQL-92
  - SQL:1999 (language name became Y2K compliant!)
  - SQL:2003
- Commercial systems offer most, if not all, SQL-92 features, plus varying feature sets from later standards and special proprietary features.
  - Not all examples here may work on your particular system.

SQL Parts

- DML -- provides the ability to query information from the database and to insert tuples into, delete tuples from, and modify tuples in the database.
- integrity – the DDL includes commands for specifying integrity constraints.
- View definition -- The DDL includes commands for defining views.
- Transaction control –includes commands for specifying the beginning and ending of transactions.
- Embedded SQL and dynamic SQL -- define how SQL statements can be embedded within general-purpose programming languages.
- Authorization – includes commands for specifying access rights to relations and views.

Data Definition Language

The SQL data-definition language (DDL) allows the specification of information about relations, including:

- The schema for each relation.
- The type of values associated with each attribute.
- The Integrity constraints
- The set of indices to be maintained for each relation.
- Security and authorization information for each relation.
- The physical storage structure of each relation on disk.

Domain Types in SQL

- **char(n).** Fixed length character string, with user-specified length *n.*
- **varchar(n).** Variable length character strings, with user-specified maximum length *n.*
- **int.** Integer (a finite subset of the integers that is machine-dependent).
- **smallint.** Small integer (a machine-dependent subset of the integer domain type).
- **numeric(p,d).** Fixed point number, with user-specified precision of *p* digits, with *d* digits to the right of decimal point. (ex., **numeric**(3,1), allows 44.5 to be stores exactly, but not 444.5 or 0.32)
- **real, double precision.** Floating point and double-precision floating point numbers, with machine-dependent precision.
- **float(n).** Floating point number, with user-specified precision of at least *n* digits.
- More are covered in Chapter 4.

Create Table Construct

- An SQL relation is defined using the **create table** command:

  create table *r*

  (A_1 D_1, A_2 D_2, ..., A_n D_n,
  (integrity-constraint$_1$),
  ...,
  (integrity-constraint$_k$))

  - *r* is the name of the relation
  - each A_i is an attribute name in the schema of relation *r*
  - D_i is the data type of values in the domain of attribute A_i

- Example:

  create table *instructor* (
  ID **char**(5),
  name **varchar**(20),
  dept_name **varchar**(20),
  salary **numeric**(8,2))

Integrity Constraints in Create Table

- Types of integrity constraints
  - **primary key** (A_1, ..., A_n)
  - **foreign key** (A_m, ..., A_n) **references** *r*
  - **not null**
- SQL prevents any update to the database that violates an integrity constraint.
- Example:

```
create table instructor (
        ID              char(5),
        name            varchar(20) not null,
        dept_name       varchar(20),
        salary          numeric(8,2),
        primary key (ID),
        foreign key (dept_name) references department);
```

And a Few More Relation Definitions

- **create table** *student* (
  ID **varchar**(5),
  name **varchar**(20) not null,
  dept_name **varchar**(20),
  tot_cred **numeric**(3,0),
  primary key *(ID),*
  foreign key *(dept_name*) **references** *department*);

- **create table** *takes* (
  ID **varchar**(5),
  course_id **varchar**(8),
  sec_id **varchar**(8),
  semester **varchar**(6),
  year **numeric**(4,0),
  grade **varchar**(2),
  primary key *(ID, course_id, sec_id, semester, year)* ,
  foreign key (*ID*) **references** *student,*
  foreign key (*course_id, sec_id, semester, year*) **references** *section*);

And more still

- **create table** *course* (
  course_id **varchar**(8),
  title **varchar(**50),
  dept_name **varchar**(20),
  credits **numeric**(2,0),
  primary key *(course_id),*
  foreign key *(dept_name*) **references** *department*);

Updates to tables

- **Insert**
  - **insert into** *instructor* **values** ('10211', 'Smith', 'Biology', 66000);
- **Delete**
  - Remove all tuples from the *student* relation
    - **delete from** *student*
- **Drop Table**
  - **drop table** *r*
- **Alter**
  - **alter table** *r* **add** *A D*
    - where *A* is the name of the attribute to be added to relation *r* and *D* is the domain of *A.*
    - All exiting tuples in the relation are assigned *null* as the value for the new attribute.
  - **alter table** *r* **drop** *A*
    - where *A* is the name of an attribute of relation *r*
    - Dropping of attributes not supported by many databases.

Basic Query Structure

- A typical SQL query has the form:

  select A_1, A_2, ..., A_n
  from r_1, r_2, ..., r_m
  where P

  - A_i represents an attribute
  - R_i represents a relation
  - P is a predicate.
- The result of an SQL query is a relation.

The select Clause

- The **select** clause lists the attributes desired in the result of a query
  - corresponds to the projection operation of the relational algebra
- Example: find the names of all instructors:

  select *name*
  from *instructor*
- NOTE: SQL names are case insensitive (i.e., you may use upper- or lower-case letters.)
  - E.g., *Name* ≡ *NAME* ≡ *name*
  - Some people use upper case wherever we use bold font.

The select Clause (Cont.)

- SQL allows duplicates in relations as well as in query results.
- To force the elimination of duplicates, insert the keyword **distinct** after select**.**
- Find the department names of all instructors, and remove duplicates

  select distinct *dept_name*
  from *instructor*
- The keyword **all** specifies that duplicates should not be removed.

  select all *dept_name*
  from *instructor*

dept_name
Comp. Sci.
Finance
Music
Physics
History
Physics
Comp. Sci.
History
Finance
Biology
Comp. Sci.
Elec. Eng.

The select Clause (Cont.)

- An asterisk in the select clause denotes “all attributes”

  select *
  from *instructor*

- An attribute can be a literal with no **from** clause

  select '437'

  - Results is a table with one column and a single row with value “437”
  - Can give the column a name using:

    select '437' **as** *FOO*

- An attribute can be a literal with **from** clause

  select 'A'
  from *instructor*

  - Result is a table with one column and *N* rows (number of tuples in the *instructors* table), each row with value “A”

The select Clause (Cont.)

- The **select** clause can contain arithmetic expressions involving the operation, +, –, ✶, and /, and operating on constants or attributes of tuples.
  - The query:

    select *ID, name, salary/12*
    from *instructor*

    would return a relation that is the same as the *instructor* relation, except that the value of the attribute *salary* is divided by 12.
  - Can rename "s*alary/12"* using the **as** clause:

    select *ID, name, salary/12* **as** *monthly_salary*

The where Clause

- The **where** clause specifies conditions that the result must satisfy
  - Corresponds to the selection predicate of the relational algebra.
- To find all instructors in Comp. Sci. dept

```
select name
from instructor
where dept_name = 'Comp. Sci.'
```

- SQL allows the use of the logical connectives **and, or,** and **not**
- The operands of the logical connectives can be expressions involving the comparison operators <, <=, >, >=, =, and <>.
- Comparisons can be applied to results of arithmetic expressions
- To find all instructors in Comp. Sci. dept with salary > 70000

```
select name
from instructor
where dept_name = 'Comp. Sci.' and salary > 70000
```

name
Katz
Brandt

The from Clause

- The **from** clause lists the relations involved in the query
  - Corresponds to the Cartesian product operation of the relational algebra.
- Find the Cartesian product *instructor X teaches*

  select ∗
  from *instructor, teaches*
  - generates every possible instructor – teaches pair, with all attributes from both relations.
  - For common attributes (e.g., *ID*), the attributes in the resulting table are renamed using the relation name (e.g., *instructor.ID*)
- Cartesian product not very useful directly, but useful combined with where-clause condition (selection operation in relational algebra).

Examples

- Find the names of all instructors who have taught some course and the course_id
  - **select** *name, course_id*
    from *instructor , teaches*
    where *instructor.ID = teaches.ID*
- Find the names of all instructors in the Art department who have taught some course and the course_id
  - **select** *name, course_id*
    from *instructor , teaches*
    where *instructor.ID = teaches.ID*
    and *instructor. dept_name* = 'Art'

name	*course_id*
Srinivasan	CS-101
Srinivasan	CS-315
Srinivasan	CS-347
Wu	FIN-201
Mozart	MU-199
Einstein	PHY-101
El Said	HIS-351
Katz	CS-101
Katz	CS-319
Crick	BIO-101
Crick	BIO-301
Brandt	CS-190
Brandt	CS-190
Brandt	CS-319
Kim	EE-181

The Rename Operation

- The SQL allows renaming relations and attributes using the **as** clause:

  old-name **as** *new-name*

- Find the names of all instructors who have a higher salary than some instructor in 'Comp. Sci'.
  - **select distinct** *T.name*
    from *instructor* **as** *T, instructor* **as** *S*
    where *T.salary* > *S.salary* **and** *S.dept_name* = *'Comp. Sci.'*

- Keyword **as** is optional and may be omitted

  instructor **as** *T* ≡ *instructor T*

Self Join Example

- Relation *emp-super*

person	*supervisor*
Bob	Alice
Mary	Susan
Alice	David
David	Mary

- Find the supervisor of “Bob”
- Find the supervisor of the supervisor of “Bob”
- Can you find ALL the supervisors (direct and indirect) of “Bob”?

String Operations

- SQL includes a string-matching operator for comparisons on character strings. The operator **like** uses patterns that are described using two special characters:
  - percent (%). The % character matches any substring.
  - underscore (_). The _ character matches any character.
- Find the names of all instructors whose name includes the substring “dar”.

  sel**ect** *name*
  from *instructor*
  where *name* **like** '%dar%'

- Match the string “100%”

  like '100 \%' **escape** '\'

  in that above we use backslash (\) as the escape character.

String Operations (Cont.)

- Patterns are case sensitive.
- Pattern matching examples:
  - 'Intro%' matches any string beginning with “Intro”.
  - '%Comp%' matches any string containing “Comp” as a substring.
  - '_ _ _' matches any string of exactly three characters.
  - '_ _ _ %' matches any string of at least three characters.
- SQL supports a variety of string operations such as
  - concatenation (using “||”)
  - converting from upper to lower case (and vice versa)
  - finding string length, extracting substrings, etc.

Ordering the Display of Tuples

- List in alphabetic order the names of all instructors

```
select distinct name
from   instructor
    order by name
```

- We may specify **desc** for descending order or **asc** for ascending order, for each attribute; ascending order is the default.
  - Example: **order by** *name* **desc**
- Can sort on multiple attributes
  - Example: **order by** *dept_name, name*

Where Clause Predicates

- SQL includes a **between** comparison operator
- Example: Find the names of all instructors with salary between $90,000 and $100,000 (that is, $\geq$ $90,000 and $\leq$ $100,000)
  - **select** *name*
    from *instructor*
    where *salary* **between** 90000 **and** 100000
- Tuple comparison
  - **select** *name*, *course_id*
    from *instructor*, *teaches*
    where (*instructor.ID*, *dept_name*) = (*teaches.ID*, 'Biology');

Set Operations

- Find courses that ran in Fall 2017 or in Spring 2018

  (**select** *course_id* **from** *section* **where** *sem* = 'Fall' **and** *year* = 2017)
  union
  (**select** *course_id* **from** *section* **where** *sem* = 'Spring' **and** *year* = 2018)

- Find courses that ran in Fall 2017 and in Spring 2018

  (**select** *course_id* **from** *section* **where** *sem* = 'Fall' **and** *year* = 2017)
  intersect
  (**select** *course_id* **from** *section* **where** *sem* = 'Spring' **and** *year* = 2018)

- Find courses that ran in Fall 2017 but not in Spring 2018

  (**select** *course_id* **from** *section* **where** *sem* = 'Fall' **and** *year* = 2017)
  except
  (**select** *course_id* **from** *section* **where** *sem* = 'Spring' **and** *year* = 2018)

Set Operations (Cont.)

- Set operations **union**, **intersect**, and **except**
  - Each of the above operations automatically eliminates duplicates
- To retain all duplicates use the
  - **union all**,
  - **intersect all**
  - **except all**.

Null Values

- It is possible for tuples to have a null value, denoted by **null**, for some of their attributes
- **null** signifies an unknown value or that a value does not exist.
- The result of any arithmetic expression involving **null** is **null**
  - Example: 5 + **null** returns **null**
- The predicate **is null** can be used to check for null values.
  - Example: Find all instructors whose salary is null.

    select *name*
    from *instructor*
    where *salary* **is null**
- The predicate **is not null** succeeds if the value on which it is applied is not null.

Null Values (Cont.)

- SQL treats as **unknown** the result of any comparison involving a null value (other than predicates **is null** and **is not null**).
  - Example*: 5* < **null** or **null** <> **null** or **null** = **null**
- The predicate in a **where** clause can involve Boolean operations (**and**, **or**, **not**); thus the definitions of the Boolean operations need to be extended to deal with the value **unknown**.
  - **and** : *(true* **and** *unknown) = unknown,*
    (false **and** *unknown) = false,*
    (unknown **and** *unknown) = unknown*
  - **or:** (*unknown* **or** *true*) = *true*,
    (*unknown* **or** *false*) = *unknown*
    (*unknown* **or** *unknown) = unknown*
- Result of **where** clause predicate is treated as *false* if it evaluates to *unknown*